

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Claims 16-24 remain pending in the application. Claims 16-20, 23, and 24 are allowed.

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected.

Claims 1-15 have been canceled.

1. through 15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound, said bandage comprising:

a substrate comprising a first adhesive substrate surface and an opposing second substrate surface;

a spacer comprising a first spacer surface and a second spacer surface wherein said spacer surfaces form a spacer border surrounding a spacer void in the approximate center of said spacer and wherein said first spacer surface is associated with said first adhesive substrate surface; and

a pad comprising a first pad surface and a second pad surface wherein said first pad surface is associated with said second space surface and said first adhesive substrate surface thereby sealing said spacer between said substrate and said pad.

17. (previously presented) The bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said substrate, said pad, and said spacer each define a rectangle and wherein:

- (a) the length of said substrate is about three times the length of said pad,
- (b) the width of said substrate is wider than the width of said pad,
- (c) the length of said spacer is about the same as the length of said pad, and
- (d) the width of said spacer is about the same as the width of said pad.

18. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said substrate, said pad, and said spacer each define a rectangle and wherein:

- (a) the length of said substrate is about three times the length of said pad ;
- (b) the length of said spacer is about the same length as said pad;
- (c) the width of said spacer is about the same as the width of said substrate; and

wherein the width of said pad is one of (i) substantially equal to the width of said substrate, and (ii) wider than the width of said substrate.

19. (previously presented) The bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said spacer is composed of inert material.

20. (previously presented) The bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said spacer void defines a pouch that is about 2.0 mm to about 2.5 mm wide and about 2.0mm to about 2.5 mm deep.

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A bandage for covering a wound, said bandage comprising:

a substrate comprising a first adhesive substrate surface and an opposing second substrate surface, wherein said first adhesive substrate surface defines a substrate-geometric-figure and wherein said first adhesive substrate surface and said opposing second substrate surface further define a substrate-pocket cavity extending a predefined distance away from said first adhesive substrate surface;

a pad comprising a first pad surface and a second pad surface, wherein the distance between said first pad surface and said second pad surface define a pad-thickness, and

wherein said first pad surface defines a pad-geometric-figure that is smaller than the substrate-geometric-figure, and wherein said first pad surface and said second pad surface further define a pad-~~pocket~~cavity extending a predefined distance away from said first pad surface;

and wherein said first pad surface is associated with said first adhesive substrate surface so that said pad-~~pocket~~cavity is in alignment with said substrate-~~pocket~~cavity and so as to define a substrate-surface-border-region around said pad;

a ring having a first ring surface and a second ring surface, wherein the distance between said first ring surface and said second ring surface define a ring depth, and wherein said first ring surface defines a ring-geometric-figure that is smaller than the substrate-geometric-figure but larger than the pad-geometric-figure; and

wherein said first ring surface is associated with said substrate-surface-border-region so that said ring surrounds said pad.

24. (previously presented) The bandage for covering a wound as in claim 23, wherein said substrate-geometric-figure is a rectangle and said ring depth is between about 2.00 mm and 2.50mm.